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PREFACE.

A YEAR ago we ventured to modernise *The Gentleman's Magazine.* Our policy has been endorsed by the public in the large measure of success which has attended us. For this encouragement we offer our cordial thanks to old friends, who have graciously accepted the change; and our warmest acknowledgments to the thousands of new subscribers whose acquaintance we have made through the New Series.

Anxious to maintain the high position which the Magazine has taken, and earnestly desirous of evincing our gratitude to an enlarged and increasing constituency, we have made such arrangements for the future as will add further attractions to our work. Immediate proof of this will be found in the present Volume, containing the opening chapters of a new novel by Victor Hugo, the English copyright of which has been purchased by the publishers of *The Gentleman's Magazine.* The interest of the story will be enhanced by pertinent illustrations, and this new and important feature will be supported each month by a variety of matter equal in value to that which has gone before.

In our opening remarks last year, we proclaimed a desire, as of old, to hear of volunteer contributors, who should be fairly tested by our standard, and, if not enlisted, civilly dismissed. Betraying us into many hours of increased labour, we fear this has also beguiled hundreds of ladies and gentle-

men into hopes that cannot be realised. It is impossible that we can read half the papers that are sent to us, or answer one-third of the letters which accompany them. With an author's sympathy for our correspondents, we find it utterly impossible to do them justice. One great difficulty in the matter of rejected manuscripts is the absence upon many now in our possession of any name or address.

Several volunteers plaintively quote our Preface against us. In reply, we can but point to the fact that *The Gentleman's* is not fifty magazines, but one; and that a volume every week, instead of one in six months, would be required for the publication of the writings which they are kind enough to send us. For the future we must claim all the editorial privileges, which include non-responsibility for manuscripts forwarded to us without previous arrangement as to their disposition. In saying this, we do not desire to exclude the volunteer from our consideration; but he must take the risk of his position, and not be angry with us if he finds the path of literature as thorny and uncertain as others have found it before him.

With a filial sympathy for so old an institution as *The Gentleman's Magazine,* our brethren of the newspaper press have evinced great interest in our somewhat daring work of reform. We can assure them that it has been a source of the highest gratification to us that what we have done has met with their approval. Journalist and magazine editor, SYLVANUS URBAN is entitled to their highest respect. His modern representative will never willingly do anything that can lower so historic a personage in their estimation, or curtail the good opinion in which he is held by the world at large.

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